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Message Text

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11
ACTION AEC-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SCI-06 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-14 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 FEA-02 FPC-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0903

UNCLAS TOKYO 4115

DEPT PASS AEC FOR FRIEDMAN (IP) AND BECK (DRGL)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TECH, JA
SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

1. INFO REQUESTED TELEX 0524 DATED MARCH 15, 1974, FROM FREDMAN TO HELFRICH PROVIDED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. TOTAL TIME OR TOTAL EXPECTED TIME FROM FIRST APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO BUILD TO DATE OF COMMERCIAL POWER PRODUCTIN IN MONTHS FOR EACH OPERATING NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND FOR EACH PLANT UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN JAPAN FOLLOWS: OPERATING: TOKAI-1, 88; TSURUGA, 52: MIHAMA-1, 53; FUKUSHIMA-1, 56; MIHAMA-2, 56. UNDER CONSTRUCTION: FUKUSHIMA-2, 62; HAMAOKA-1, 54; GENKAI, 62; OHI-1, 85; OHI-2, 81 (DUAL PLANT APPLICATION); FUKUSHIMA-5, 61; MIHAMA-3, 60; FUKUSHIMA-4, 67; FUKUSHIMA-6, 63; TOKAI-2, 58; IKATA, 59.

3. SIGNIFICANT STEPS IN LICENSING AND CONSTCUTION PROCESS:
A) PLANT OWNER OBTAINS UNOFFICIAL APPROVAL FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL CITIZENS' GROUPS. APPROVAL INCLUDES UNDERSTANDING ONCOMPENSATION FOR POTENTIAL DAMAGES TO LOCAL PEOPLES' WELFARE AND ENVIRONMENT. THOUGH OFFICIAL APPROVAL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS COMES LATER IN LICENSING PROCESS, JAPANESE UTILITIES CHARACTERISTICALLY RELUCTANT TAKE FIRST OFFICIAL STEP UNTIL THIS UNDERSTANDING OBTAINED BE-
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CAUSE AGREEMENT IN SOME CASES INDEFINITELY DELAYED. CUR-

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RENTLY CONSTRUCTION OF THE FOLLOWING PLANTS HAS NOT STARTED BECAUSE LACKING INFORMAL APPROVAL: TOKYO EPCO KASHIWAZAKI, SCHEDULED CONSTRUCTION START (SCS) FEB 73; KANSAI EPCO PLANTS KANSAI X1 AND X2, SCS FEB 73 AND KANSAI X3, SCS JAN 74; CHUBU EPCO QUOTE Q UNQUOTE, SCS DEC 73; HOKURIKU EPCO NOTO, SCS DEC 72.

B) APPLICATION TO ELECTRIC POWER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION CONCUIL. EPRDCC STUDIES OVERALL POWER REQUIREMENTS IN JAPAN AND NEED FOR EACH PARTICULAR NEW PLANT. AT THIS TIME ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ALSO CONSIDERED. EPRDCC MEETS SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR WHEN WORKLOAD WARRANTS MEETING. APPROVAL HAS THUS FAR BEEN AUTOMATIC. TOKYO EPCO KASHIWAZAKI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WAS REMOVED FROM JAN 73 EPRDCC AGENDA BECAUSE INFORMAL LOCAL APPROVAL HAD NOT BEEN OBTAINED. AS NOTED ABOVE PARA 3(A), THIS PLANT STILL PENDING.

C) APPLICATION TO PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY FOR REACTOR ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTRUCTION PERMIT. APPROVAL FROM PRIME MINISTER AND MITI TAKES FROM SIX TO 19 MONTHS. UNDER PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, JAEC AND COMMITTEE ON EXAMINATION OF REACTOR SAFETY (ECRS) REVIEW APPLICATION. AT SAME TIME MITI ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL MATTERS OF NUCLEAR POWER REVIEWS APPLICATION. PERMISSION FOR ESTABLISHMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE POWER PLANT IS SIMULTANEOUS FROM PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND FROM MITI. PUBLIC HEARINGS WERE RECENTLY ADOPTED AS PART OF JAEC REVIEW FOR SOME POWER PLANTS (INFO PREVIUSLY PROVIDED ON THIS SUBJECT). A PUBLIC HEARING ON LICENSING HAS BEEN HELD FOR ONLY ONE PLANT, THE TEPCO FUKUSHIMA-II NUCLEAR POWER STATION. THE NEARING WAS HELD BY JAEC IN SEPT 1973 AND THE HEARING RECORD PROVIDED TO ECRS FOR CONSIDERATION IN ITS REVIEW OF APPLICATION. WHILE PUBLIC HEARING CAN BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE TIME FOR PIRME MINISTER'S APPROVAL, IT IS TOO EARLY FOR QUANTITATIVE ASSESSMENT; ALSO, IT IS HOPED THAT IT WILL REDUCE TIME REQUIRED FOR OBTAINING PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE.

D) CONSTRUCTION IS SUPERVISED BY MITI UNDER THE ELECTRIC ENTERPRISE LAW. CONSTRUCTION TIMES IN MONTHS FOR PLANTS IN OPERATION AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOLLOWS: TOKAI-1, 77; TSURUGA, 48;
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MIHAMA-1, 47, FUKUSHIMA-1, 51; MIHAMA-2, 50; FUKUSHIMA-2 (COMMERICAL OPERATION FUKUSHIMA-2 DELAYED APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR BECAUSE OF LEAKY VALVES AND INVERTED CONTROL ROD PINS), 72; TAKAHAMA-1, 56; SHIMANE, 49; FUKUSHIMA-3, 59; TAKAHAMA-2, 55; HAMAOKA-1, 44; GENKAI, 55, OHI-1, 57; OHI-2, 63: FUKUSHIMA-5, 51; MIHAMA-3, 52; FUKUSHIMA-4, 60; FUKUSHIMA-6, 51; TOKAI-2, 40; IKATA, 46. THERE IS NO REPEAT NO FORMAL APPLICATIONFOR OPERATING LICENSE PERMIT. UPON COMPLETION OF CONSTUCTION

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AND FINAL INSPECTION BY MITI, UTILITY IS AUTHORIZED BY MITI
TO INITIATE OPERATION.

4. DELAYS. DELAYS IN BRINGING PLANTS ON-LINE HAVE RESULTED FROM
PHYSICAL CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS AND LICENSING PROBLEMS. CONSTRUCTION
PROBLEMS APPEAR SPECIFIC AND GENERALLY ONE OF A KIND. LABOR AND
MATERIALS SHORTAGES COULD BECOME PROBLEMS IN FUTURE. LICENSING
PROBLEMS MOSTLY ARISE FROM NEED TO GAIN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF LOCAL
POPULACE. OPPOSITION OF LOCAL POPULACE STEMS MAINLY FROM CONCERNS
ABOUT RADIOACTIVITY, LOSS OF INCOME AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. QUOTE
MUCLEAR ALLERGY UNQUOTE STEMMING FROM ATOMIC BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA
STILL A FACTOR IN CONCERN ABOUT READIOACTIVITY. CONCERN ABOUT LOSS OF
INCOME STEMS FROM POSSIBLE FISH KILLS OR LOSS OF SALABILITY OF PRODUCT

DUE TO CONTAMINATION. IN ADDITION, JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY AND JAPAN
COMMUNIST PARTY ARE OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR POWER. OF THE TWO, JSPS HAS
BEEN MOST ACTIVE IN CRITICIZING CIVILIAN NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. BOTH
HAVE ACCUSED GOVERNMENT OF DISREGARDING THE POPLES' WELFARE AND
LACK OF SUPERVISION OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM THE JAPAN SCIEN-
TISTS' ASSOCIATION, AN 8000 MEMBER GROUP OF SCIENTISTS, PROFESSIONALS
,
STUDENTS AND OTHES, IS THE MOST TECHNICALLY COMPETENT ORGANIZATION
OPPOSING NUCLEAR FACILITIES IN JAPAN. IT PUBLISHES REPORTS AND
HOLDS MEETINGS ON SUCH PROBLEMS AS ECCS, RDIOACTIVE WASTES AND
THERMAL EFFLUENTS.

5. IN ADDITION,THERE ARE TWO OTHER FACTORS WHICH COULD EVENTUALLY
LEAD TO DELAYS:
A) LEGAL ACTION. COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN FILED UNDER THE ADMIN-
ISTRATIVE GRIEVANCE LAW REQUESTING CANCELATION OF THE CON-
STRU CTION PERMITS OF THE TOKAI-2 (1100 MW BWR) AND IKATA
(566 MW PWR) NUCLER POWER PLANTS THE PRIME MINISTER RE-
JECTED BOTH COMPLAINTS AND A SUBSEQUENT LAWSUIT AGAINST
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IKATA IS STILL PENDING. LEGAL ACTION HAS THUS FAR NOT
CREATED LICENSING AND CONSTRUCTION DELAYS BUT HAS NOT BEEN
EXTENSIVELY USED.

B) RADIOACTIVITY MONITORING SCANDAL. RADIATION MONITORING
AROUND NUCLEAR FACILITIES IN JAPAN IS A SHARED RESPONSI-
BILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY. THE GOVERNMENT HAD
CONTRACTED MOST OF ITS MONITORING TO JAPAN ANALYTICAL CHEMI-
CAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE. IT WAS DISCLOSED IN JAN 1974 THAT
JACRI HAD FABRICATED MONITORING DATA. THE GOVERNMENT NOW MUST
SET UP A NEW MONITORING SYSTEM TO RESTORE CREDIBILITY. THIS
TASK AND EXPLANATIONS TO DIET HAVE CONSUMED A LARGE PORTION
OF AEB'S EFFORTS SINCE DISCLOSURE. THROGH CONTROVERSY
MAINLY INVOLVES US NUCLEAR SUBMARINE VISITS, ITS IMPACT IS
BEING FELT BY THE CIVILIAN NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY IN FORM OF

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INCREASED PUBLIC SKEPTICISM.

6. REMEDIAL ACTION. GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ARE ATTACKING THE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE PROBLEM. FIRST THE GOVERNMENT IS INCRASING LWR SAFETY RESEARCH FROM ABOUT FOUR MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 73 TO THIRTEEN MILLION DOLLARS IN FY 74 AND PROMOTING RESEARCH ON EFFECTS OF LOW-LEVEL RADIATION ON MAN. THEY HOPE TO COMBINED INCREASED RESEARCH WITH A PUBLIC INFO PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSURNACE TO THE PEOPLE THAT NUCLEAR REACTORS ARE SAFE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS OPENED A NUCLEAR INFO CENTER IN THE SICIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AGENCY AND MOST UTILITIES HAVE OR PLAN A PUBLIC RELATIONS CENTER AT POWER PLANT SITES. ALSO, THE GOVERNMENT IS SPONSORING A SITING BILL IN CURRENT DIET THAT WILL PROVIDE SUBSIDIES TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT NEAR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. IN ADDITION, THE PUBLIC HEARING SYSTEM MENTIONED ABOVE WAS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE. THE JAPAN ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM REORGANIZED LATE IN 1973 AND BROUGHT PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE NUCLEAR COMMUNITY INTO ITS TOP MANAGEMENT POSITIONS. OBJECTIVE OF REORGANIZATION WAS TO PERMIT JAIF TO BE RESPONSIVE TO CNCERNS OF PUBLIC AND OTHER GROUPS, NOT JUST NUCLEAR INDUSTRY, IN ITS PROMOTION OF NUCLEAR POWER. THERE IS WIDESPREAD SKEPTICISM AS TO WHETHER OR NOT FORUM WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS ENDEAVOR.
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